

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DAVID VAZQUEZ

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Master Sergeant David Vazquez, a decorated Veteran, retired from the United States Marine Corps after 22 years of service. The ceremony to acknowledge this Marine's retirement and to celebrate his accomplishments occurred November 1, 2001 in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

Master Sergeant David Vazquez was born in Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico on March 29, 1959. An already well-traveled young Marine, he married his lovely wife, Viviana, seventeen years ago. MSgt and Mrs. Vazquez have two children. Vashty and Daviana. Mr. Speaker, military families develop the ability to make a home anywhere in the world and the Vazquez family is no exception. They have made a home to a host of nations, including Madagascar, Brazil and Japan.

MSgt. Vazquez attended boot camp at the notorious Parris Island in South Carolina and from there was assigned to First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California. Following a tour overseas, he served as a Marine Security Guard in Mouroubia, Liberia, the Hague in Holland, and Saint George, Granada. MSgt. Vazquez shifted his MOS (Military Operational Specialty) to Aviation Electrician for CH 46 helicopters. This new MOS got him an assignment in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. After an assignment in San Diego, California, MSgt. Vazquez was sent to the Persian Gulf to serve in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon return from the Persian Gulf, the Vazquez family embarked on some more world-traveling before settling down in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania where it looks like they may have made their last home.

Mr. Speaker, MSgt. Vazquez will not retire from the United States Marines without having left his mark. His sharp-shooting skills won him a record of 247 bulls-eye shots out of 250 and allowed him to shoot a perfect score in the Marine Security Course. MSgt. Vazquez also holds the record for the highest number of sit-ups done by any member of the Armed Forces. This Marine astonished everyone when he completed 2101 sit-ups in 58 minutes.

He was runner-up for Drill Instructor of the year in 1989 and part of the winning Detachment of the Year while serving in Anavanario, Madagascar. MSgt. Vazquez's accomplishments throughout his 22 years of service go on and on. He is the epitome of a Marine; valiant, noble, and dedicated to going beyond the call of duty.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking MSgt. Vazquez for his 22 years of service to our country and in congratulating him on his much-deserved retirement.

SECURE TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3150) to improve aviation security, and for other purposes:

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose H.R. 3150, the Secure Transportation for America Act, and express my strong support for the Democratic alternative.

Today, we face a critical choice in aviation security—private profit versus public safety. Private airport security firms failed the American people on September 11th and continue to fail to provide adequate security for our nation's airports. For instance, on Tuesday October 23rd, a 68-year-old man departing from the New Orleans airport was able to carry a gun onto an airplane without setting off alarms. Similarly, in late September, a 63-year-old man made it through a checkpoint with a pistol in his pocket. This is unacceptable!

Private airport security companies are concerned with profits. They have cut corners and hired the least qualified workers as cost-saving measures. Subsequently, private firms have failed to conduct background checks and have hired felons. In the face of this crisis, we do not have the time, nor the luxury, of "monitoring" a failed private system.

Some argue that we should follow the "effective" European model of airport security that consists of private contractors. Our system has more than 400 airports and requires 20–30,000 screeners. In contrast, a typical European country has only three or four airports with no uniform security standards from country to country. Moreover, people who argue that the European system works well are wrong. Reports indicate that last month, a nine-inch knife, a sharp metal nail file, and even a 12-inch knitting needle bypassed security and were taken on British Airways flights.

Similarly, people argue that we should follow the Israeli model of airport security, which consists mainly of public security and some private security. The Israeli model, however, is effective because nearly all of its security personnel, public and private, served in the Israeli Defense Force and are well oriented and trained in security issues. In contrast, our general workforce proportionally does not contain as many workers with rich security backgrounds.

Nearly all, 82 percent, favor the federalization of airport security, while at the same time, the United States Senate voted 100–0 to federalize airport security. The choice before us is obvious—federalize the workers.

Our economy is failing in large part because people are not flying. People are not flying because they are not confident in our airport se-

curity. And, people are not confident in our airport security because of significant security lapses on and since September 11th.

Americans understand that in order to fully restore consumer confidence in air travel, we must restore consumer confidence in the security system that protects them. Today, we face a critical decision. We must opt for a public system that works. Federalize our nation's airport security and protect the American people.

MORICS LAUDED BY LOCAL BUSINESS GROUP

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2001 the Milwaukee South Side Business Club will honor Wally Morics as its "Man of the Year."

W. Martin "Wally" Morics was born in Hanau, Germany. At the age of four, he immigrated with his parents to Chicago. He spent his childhood there, and attended Northwestern University as an undergrad and later earned his masters degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Wally started his professional career with the large Public Accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company. He worked there for several years until he was lured away by the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and an opportunity to work at small "hometown" firm. During his time in Colorado, Wally discovered his reckless side, and purchased a Formula Ford that he raced competitively. His racing career was short-lived however, as he eventually totaled the car in an accident.

An ad for a vacancy in the Milwaukee Office of Deputy Comptroller lured Wally and his family back to the Midwest in 1976. He served as Deputy Comptroller under James McCann for sixteen years. McCann's retirement in 1992 opened up the opportunity for Wally to run for Comptroller, and he is currently serving his third term.

In addition to his elected service, Wally's dedication to the community is evident through his service on many boards and committees. These include, the International Arts Festival, the Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation, The Milwaukee World Festivals/Summerfest Board, St. Anthony Foundation and the Southside Business Club, just to name a few.

Wally has distinguished himself as a leader in the community, as well as a leader and expert in the professional community. He is frequently asked to speak at national conferences on topics ranging from municipal debt financing to investments for pension systems. He is also a regular guest on WISN radio's "Money Sense." Wally has been married to his wife Cathy for over 32 years.

I am pleased to join with the South Side Business Club of Milwaukee in honoring my

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

friend, Wally Morics, as their Man of the Year for 2001.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Solomon was a great American. I think those of us who had the privilege to serve with him in the Congress know that he would consider this one of the finest compliments he could receive.

He loved this Country. He was a Marine and proud of it. He was a patriot in the very best sense of that word.

He was a loyal Republican who fought hard for the things he believed in. But he also had as many friends on the other side of the aisle as anyone in the House.

I always called him my Leader, because I respected him so much that I always watched to see how he voted and then usually followed his lead.

This Nation is a better place because of Jerry Solomon. He was one of the finest men I have ever known, and I want, in this small way, to express my great appreciation for his service and my heartfelt condolences to his family.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 26th, my good friend Jerry Solomon passed away after suffering congestive heart failure. What a great loss for this institution and for the constituents he once served.

Jerry was a Member of this Chamber for 10 terms serving from 1979–1999. Ask anyone who served with him, and they will remember him as an outspoken and tenacious advocate for his views and constituents.

I knew Jerry well and he was second to none in this Chamber. In losing Jerry, we lost a tremendous patriot and committed public servant. He was often referred to by his fellow colleagues as “the Pit Bull of the House.”

And, although he enjoyed his work in Washington and in the International arena, he always said his greatest enjoyment came from successfully helping people back home in his district cope with problems they had with the Federal bureaucracy.

He was very proud of the often repeated comments on the streets back in his district that “you may not always agree with Jerry Solomon, but you sure as hell know where he stands on the issues.” His commuting back home every weekend catapulted him to reelection usually by overwhelming 3–1 margins during his ten terms in Congress.

Jerry Solomon also devoted more than fifty years of his life in active involvement with the

Boy Scouts of America, having been a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, scoutmaster, and serving as an advisor to numerous scout councils.

In support of the scouting movement he also founded the Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Foundation as a not-for-profit charitable organization whose goals are to preserve and promote freedom and democracy and to specifically provide college scholarships to high school students who attain Boy and Girl Scout's highest awards. He was recently honored by Twin Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America where he received the James E. West “Good Scout Award” for almost six decades of service to scouting.

During his Congressional career, which spanned 20 years serving in the House of Representatives, Jerry devoted most of his time to the issues of veterans, senior citizens, foreign policy, national defense, the war on drugs, and the budget.

During the 1980's, Jerry was one of thirteen House members that served on President Ronald Reagan's group of congressional advisors and floor generals for foreign policy, national defense and budgetary initiatives.

As a veteran member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, a Committee on which I also served, and as chairman of the National Defense Task Force, Jerry Solomon was instrumental in helping to develop President Reagan's “Peace Through Strength” policies that helped bring down the Soviet Union.

During President Reagan's tenure, he appointed Jerry Solomon to serve in dual capacities as Ambassador Delegate to the United Nations and Congressional Advisor to the U.N. Session on Disarmament.

Starting in 1980, Jerry served for 18 years as the Republican representative to the North Atlantic Assembly, the political arm of NATO. He also served as chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives NATO Observer Group, responsible for promoting the enlargement of NATO.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Jerry co-chaired the Task Force on Developing Parliamentary Institutions where he helped establish libraries and computer communications systems for twenty-one former communist countries like Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the Baltics.

Jerry Solomon recently parlayed his vast knowledge and years of experience into a book, “NATO in the Twenty-First Century.”

During his entire Congressional career, Congressman Solomon, Jerry to all his friends and colleagues, was recognized as one of the most fiscally conservative members of Congress, fighting deficit spending, long before it became fashionable, forcing his own balanced budget onto the floor of the House of Representatives. He also authored a book on how and why a balanced budget is needed.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Rules Committee, he revamped the rules under which the House operates, abolishing proxy voting, opening all meetings to the media and the public, making Congress subject to the same laws that the American people live under and he reduced the size and power of Congress by eliminating many Committees and Subcommittees resulting in one-third fewer Congressional employees.

As a young man Jerry enlisted in the Marines where he served for 8½ years on active and reserve duty. As a Congressman, his fondness and respect for the Marines never

waned. As the Ranking Republican on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he was recognized by the veteran's community as one of their strongest advocates.

He authored the bill that created the cabinet level Department of Veterans' Affairs and co-authored the establishment of the new peacetime G.I. Bill.

Two awards presented to him that he cherished most were being selected by the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps League to receive the coveted “Iron Mike Award” previously given to a select few like John Wayne, Bob Hope, Howard K. Smith, and several former commandants of the Corps.

The other recognition being the Distinguished Citizen Award presented to him by the National Congressional Medal of Honor Society for his legislative successes on behalf of the United States military and veterans issues.

Who do you call when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that laws prohibiting the burning of the flag was unconstitutional? Jerry Solomon, the “Pit Bull of the House” was given the assignment to pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting desecration of the flag. The Solomon Amendment passed overwhelmingly in the House but failed by one vote in the Senate.

It is with great sadness that I bid my good friend, Jerry Solomon, farewell. May he always be remembered for the good father and husband that he was, and his relentless efforts to promote pride, patriotism and volunteerism. He proudly and unabashedly showcased his love for his family and his country every day of his life.

ADVANCING INNOVATION—GUARANTEEING THE LONG TERM VIABILITY OF AMERICA'S HIGH-TECH ECONOMY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my support for the settlement reached between the Justice Department and Microsoft last Friday. This deal will bring to a close the long-standing anti-trust battle that has affected the entire computer technology industry. Though some wish the deal had gone further, I believe it strikes the necessary balance, respecting Microsoft's strength and success while maintaining healthy competition in the technology sector. I believe it is an important step to restoring our nation's dynamic economy. I agree with Microsoft's Chairman Bill Gates that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and the right thing for the software industry.

Microsoft has long been an innovative leader. Microsoft stands as an example of the excellence of American enterprise. I respect Microsoft's role provided they leave the door open for the significant contribution and innovation of other firms. I admire Microsoft's commitment to the settlement and its ongoing commitment to improving its revolutionary software. I am confident that Microsoft will make the necessary changes to assuage and prove false its competitors who attack the company's cutting-edge productivity products as predatory. I am glad that both parties could come to